

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Poll uncovers diversity of religious opinions on right

CHICAGO (ABP) — The Religious Right is "deeply divided" from other Americans on a number of social issues, as well as in their attitudes toward homosexuals, atheists, feminists and political liberals, according to a recent survey.

"These differences are not only large but also quite consistent and closely tied to strongly held religious beliefs about what is best for American society and what values and groups should be favored," reported analyst Tom Smith of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. The study was commissioned by the American Jewish Committee.

Forty-eight percent of those aligned with the Religious Right said they favored adding

a constitutional amendment declaring that the United States is a Christian nation, a view held by 23 percent of other Americans.

Nearly nine in 10 (89 percent) of those aligned with the Religious Right favor a constitutional amendment permitting spoken prayers in public schools. Among the general population, 66 percent favor a school-prayer amendment.

Findings revealed deep differences between the Religious Right and other Americans on other issues:

■ **Abortion.** Thirty-eight percent of the Religious Right said it should be illegal in all circumstances, compared with 14 percent of other Americans.

■ **Morality.** A large majority of the Religious Right (88 percent) think the main cause of America's problems is moral decay, compared to a smaller majority (76 percent) of other Americans.

■ **Political involvement.** Three-fourths (76 percent) of the Religious Right said Christians should get involved in politics to protect their values, a view shared by 58 percent of other Americans.

Sixty-five percent of other Americans said religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections, compared to 49 percent in the Religious Right.

Nearly half (47 percent) of those aligned with the Religious Right said a politician's religious views are relevant in determining fitness for public office, compared to 33 percent of other Americans.

Fewer members of the Religious Right agreed with a statement that a person can be both a political liberal and a good Christian, 64 percent compared to 79 percent of other Americans.

Forty-four percent of the Religious Right agreed that on most political issues, there is only one correct Christian point of view, while only 19 percent of other Americans felt that way.

■ **Non-traditional views and lifestyles.** Sixty-four percent of the Religious Right said atheists have too much influence in society.

Seventy-nine percent said gay-rights groups have too much influence. Fifty-eight percent identified liberals as having too much influence and 43 percent said feminists have too much clout.

Seventy-one percent of those aligned with the Religious Right said they would prefer not to have homosexuals as neighbors, while 58 percent of other Americans said it would make no difference.

Fifty-four percent of the Religious Right said they would not want to live near an atheist.

Three fourths (75 percent) of the Religious Right said they would not vote for an atheist for president if the candidate were

otherwise well qualified. Seventy-four percent said they would not vote for a homosexual, 50 percent would not vote for a Moslem, 14 percent would not vote for a Jew and 11 percent said they would not vote for a woman.

Among other Americans, 38 percent said being an atheist should not disqualify a presidential candidate.

The same percentage said they would not vote for a homosexual, 26 percent would not support a Moslem, 5 percent a Jew and 5 percent a woman.

"Drawing on orthodox Christianity in general and evangelicalism in particular, the Religious Right seeks to infuse politics and public policy with their 'old time religion' and to restore Bible-based traditions and values to American society," the study reported.

"While hardly fanatical exclusionists, the followers of the Religious Right are dedicated believers in a Christ-centered theology that views homosexuals, atheists and some other groups of leftists and outsiders as serious threats to our country.

"From their faith comes conviction and a reluctance to accept as equal the beliefs and customs of others. It is not that they are intolerant, but they deem tolerance as a lesser value than Christian morality.

Their first political principle is that Christ rules; all else follows from that."

The Gallup International Institute conducted the survey, comparing responses from 507 Americans aligned with the Religious Right with 503 other Americans.

All respondents were interviewed by telephone between May 10 and June 3, 1996.

The survey found that those aligned with the Religious Right constitute 14 percent of the total American population.

They tend to be more from rural areas and the South, older, less educated, less well-off, more Protestant and more Republican than other Americans, according to the study.

Half of those aligned with the Religious Right identified their specific denomination as Baptist, as did 28 percent of other Americans in the survey.

Christians have mixed views on Jews, but strongly support nation of Israel

CHICAGO (ABP) — Members of the Religious Right are ambivalent in their attitudes about Jews, according to a recent study commissioned by the American Jewish Committee.

The study described a "pattern of positive and negative sentiments" in attitudes toward Jews among the Religious Right. Compared to other Americans, they are more favorable toward Israel and the special biblical status of the Jews, neither more nor less favorable in terms of their political and social acceptance of Jews, and "more unfavorable" in their other beliefs about Jews, the study reported.

In a survey conducted by the Gallup International Institute, 61 percent of respondents aligned with the Religious Right said their sympathies are more with Israel than with the Arabs in the Middle East, compared to 52 percent of other Americans.

Seventy-two percent of the Religious Right said Jews have a right to the land of Israel because it was promised to them by God, compared to 42 percent of other Americans. More than half (53 percent) of the Religious Right said Jews remain God's chosen people, compared to 28 percent of other Americans.

However, only 26 percent of those aligned with the Religious Right said Jews do not need to be converted to Christianity, a view held by 52 percent of other Americans. Twenty-two percent of the Religious Right said Jews — now as in the past — must answer for killing Christ, compared to 8 percent of other Americans.

More of those aligned with the Religious Right said they felt close to Jews — 37 percent, compared to 35 percent of other Americans.

"Jews have an ambivalent place in the hearts and minds of the Religious Right," the study said. "On the one hand, they are the Hebrews of the Old Testament, God's chosen people, and Jesus' forbears. On the other hand, they are seen as outsiders — late arrivals, non-Christians, either Orthodox practitioners following strange customs or secular humanists following strange values."

Building a church recreation facility is not a "Field of Dreams" proposition, says John Garner, director of the church recreation program at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. "It isn't 'If you build it, they will come.' There are recreation buildings all over the country that are dark and closed because of inadequate program planning," he explained. Garner recommended first developing a theology and philosophy about church recreation before proceeding with the building project. "Start small with what you have. You can — and you should — let the ministry grow and then build a facility to house it. Remember: form follows function. The programming should dictate the design of the building," he said. Churches should not feel pressured to build a facility just because other churches are doing it, Garner stressed, and church members should not consider a recreational facility as cure-all for other ills. A building doesn't win souls, he pointed out. "People win other people to for Christ," Garner said.

Marie Green Lewis still recalls the day 64 years ago when she was baptized as a nine-year-old in the flowing waters of the Bogue Chitto River. That's why she feels so driven to lead young girls to the same sweet memory. "This is my one opportunity that God has given me to help them be influenced in a positive way. It is very stimulating to be around the girls," said the Kentwood, La., resident, who always carries a photo of her latest crop of Acteens award winners. Lewis taught home economics for 18 years and helped her husband manage a dairy farm outside Kentwood. He died of cancer in 1982. "I had always been taught that God would give you the strength to deal with every situation. I did not get bitter. I did not question why," she said. Lewis is now training other women to take over her work with the girls. "I'm experienced enough to know that the girls need a younger woman in there. I know the day is coming," she pointed out. Lewis' pastor, Scott Jones, said she leads by example. "She gives her all to those teenage girls. She expects her girls to do the same," he said.

10 years ago

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, and First Church, Mobile, join with the Baptist Brotherhood organizations of Mississippi and Alabama to support a unique, two-state revival to be conducted by lay leaders of both churches.

20 years ago

Tom Elliff, pastor of Eastwood Church, Tulsa, Okla., will join Ron and Patricia Owens in leading a spiritual fellowship retreat at Lake Tiak O'Kata. The retreat is designed for pastors, church staffers, and their spouses.

50 years ago

The last will and testament of physician J.V. May, a Baptist layman from Port Gibson, includes a provision that the diamond jewelry owned by him and his deceased wife be donated to the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage for a perpetual endowment.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Let your light shine

WILLIAM H. PERKINS, JR.

In the culture war, it often seems we take a step forward, then a step backward. The stalemate can be frustrating for Christians concerned with the collective soul of our country.

For example — within a few days of the enactment of the federal Defense of Marriage Act prohibiting the recognition of same sex marriages (a step forward), corporate leader IBM announced the company will begin extending benefits to partners of homosexual employees (a step backward).

The "Time" magazine electronic news center reported IBM is joining Disney, American Express, Microsoft, Apple Computers, Time Warner, and nearly 500 other large companies in extending benefits to partners of homosexual employees.

IBM, however, is by far the largest company to take this action, and the "Time" news center reported homosexual activists believe IBM's decision will encourage other companies to follow suit.

"Having a company like IBM on

board is going to shake a lot more of them out of the trees," said activist Liz Winfield of Massachusetts, founder of an organization called "Common Ground."

In too many areas of American society, Christians are indeed strangers in a strange land, made to feel out-of-step with the culture.

Top government officials belittle the involvement of religious people in politics and seek to exclude any religious viewpoint from public life.

The entertainment industry and news media actively and consistently portray Christianity as something to be loathed, while offering up prime time perversion that rivals the hedonism of Sodom.

In the meantime, young people (and many adults) in search of spiritual meaning are left to wander the confusing smorgasbord of animistic, pagan, and outright unreligious behavior that passes for worship in America today.

Truth is twisted, and right becomes wrong in the eyes of those who seek to justify sin. Even the language used puts a more

palatable face on immorality.

What's a Christian to do?

We can take heart from the example of our Savior. Jesus Christ was belittled for his faith and shunned by the popular culture of his day (Mark 6:1-6).

Still he mourned for those who refused to understand (Luke 13:34).

His ideas weren't too popular with sinners (Matt. 26:62-67), yet he stood firm in his conviction to love sinners while calling them out of their sin (John 4, John 8:1-11).

We identify with Jesus' frustration with his enemies (Luke 11:52), but do we follow his example in loving them (Luke 6:27-36)?

It's true that we live in a culture of darkness, but so did Jesus. The world didn't just get that way in our wicked generation.

Like believers of the past, we must remain firm in the faith and pierce that darkness (Matt. 5:14-16), until Jesus comes again.

We must let our light shine. Although it may not always seem to be the case, the world is waiting for our illumination.

"RIGHT NOW I'M A MEMBER OF THE HEALING RAINBOW FAMILY AND CRUTHIRDS BELONGS TO THE PERSONAL POWER OF THE MAGNETIC GEODE, BUT WE'RE INTERESTED IN MOVING OUR LETTER TO YOUR CHURCH."



God's Plan for Your Life

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

I am come that they might have life, and that they have it more abundantly — John 10:10

However, you might not be experiencing the abundant life because sin creates a separation between you and God's plan for your life.

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God — Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death — Romans 6:23a

Human efforts to end this separation, such as living a good life or various religions, all fail. There is only one solution. Jesus Christ is God's answer to this separation.

But demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us — Romans 5:8

He is our only way to God.

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me' — John 14:6

Each person must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior to find God's wonderful plan.

...many received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who did not know him — John 1:12

...by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of works; it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast — Ephesians 2:8-9

Receive Christ

...willing to repent, turn away from sin, and believe that Jesus died for you, and that you are forgiven from all iniquities, and that you are reconciled to God through prayer, and the blood of Jesus Christ.

...a decision for Christ, and that you are reconciled to God through prayer, and the blood of Jesus Christ.

...a decision for Christ, and that you are reconciled to God through prayer, and the blood of Jesus Christ.

Southern Baptists, others set Sept. 29 as day to pray for persecuted believers

(ABP) — Being an active Christian is no less dangerous in parts of the world today than it was in the days of the Roman Empire, according to agencies monitoring religious persecution.

"In the 20th century we've lost more Christians dying for their faith than in any previous century," said Brad Winkler, office coordinator for Voice of the Martyrs, which monitors persecution and has missions activities in 30 countries.

Southern Baptists and about 40 other denominations and parachurch agencies have set aside Sunday, Sept. 29, as an international day of prayer for the persecuted church.

Among the atrocities in recent years catalogued by Voice of the Martyrs and others:

— In China, a 45-year-old itinerant evangelist was arrested while meeting with a small group of Christians in a house church.

Voice of the Martyrs reported he may be sentenced to an extended "re-education through labor" prison term.

— In Sudan, the Muslim-dominated government in the north has instituted a holy war to make the whole country Islamic.

A horrific campaign in the predominantly Christian southern region includes Christians being tortured before being crucified, said Mark Kelly, editor of "Advance," a monthly newsletter promoting prayer for unreached people groups and those encountering religious persecution.

Winkler said Christians encounter severe receptions in many countries, but Sudan is the worst. Radical Muslims "come into villages and maim the Christians, leaving them half-alive," he said. "They steal the children, forcing them into schools to study the Koran."

— In Algeria this spring, Muslim rebels wanting to establish an Islamic government killed seven French Roman Catholic monks.

Religion News Service reported that a grisly discovery awaited the monks' superiors who traveled to Algeria to arrange the burial: the killers had returned only the severed heads of their victims.

Many in America are taking notice.

In August, U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf of Virginia, introduced a "sense of the House" resolution condemning the persecution of Christians and asking President Clinton to expand government efforts to combat persecution of Christians.

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed a similar resolution.

At this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, messengers passed a resolution to observe the day of prayer Sept. 29 and urging U.S. government leaders to "uphold the fundamental freedom of religious liberty in the conduct of foreign policy."

Christian Life Commission trustees voted in September to mail information about persecuted Christians to every Southern Baptist pastor.

Winkler said Christians' two best weapons against persecution are prayer and letters.

Voice of the Martyrs encourages Christians to be informed about specific incidents and countries in order to pray more specifically, Winkler said. "That is our greatest weapon."

Letter-writing campaigns have helped free some Christians, he added.

"Many times we've seen that if thousands of people write a particular government official about a specific person who is in jail, that Christian will be released early," he said.

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Virginia conservatives vote to form separate state convention

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Conservative Southern Baptists in Virginia voted unanimously Sept. 16 to form their own state convention in an apparently unprecedented action in the 151-year history of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Virginia now has two conventions identified with Southern Baptists: The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and the new one, Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV), a name which may be changed as transitional decisions are made.

It appears to be the first time Southern Baptists have had competing conventions in the same state.

About 500 messengers to the annual meeting of the SBCV raised their ballots in support of their executive committee's recommendation to form a new convention. When no one raised a ballot in opposition, the messengers stood and applauded in the auditorium of Richmond's Grove Avenue Church. The SBCV already had 115 member churches before voting to become a state convention.

Virginia conservative leaders cited three primary reasons for the historic action:

- Theological differences with the moderate-dominated BGAV.
- A desire to support fully the

Southern Baptist Convention rather than continue as part of a convention identified with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a national, moderate organization formed in reaction to the conservative resurgence in the SBC.

— An inability to change the BGAV because of bylaw changes on messenger representation.

"We are clearly a group of people that really stand unanimously on the Word of God," said Bob Melvin, outgoing SBCV president. "That's what's brought us together — our uncompromising stand on the inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God."

"Another thing that gave birth to the convention, or at least to the SBCV, was really our total commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention, especially how God had brought about the resurgence there," Melvin said after the meeting.

"We just began to sense that there was a falling away from the Southern Baptist Convention on the part of, unfortunately, some Virginia Baptists, especially when they incorporated and brought in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We just sensed there was no place for us there," he said.

While conservatives had expressed dissatisfaction for several years with the BGAV's direction, they had not actively pursued forming a convention until a vote at the BGAV's November 1994 meeting changed the basis of messenger representation from the amount given to the Cooperative Program to the amount contributed to the BGAV.

A month later, the SBCV executive committee voted to study becoming a convention. The study and executive committees did not recommend the formation of a state convention at the SBCV's November 1995 meeting, citing a 50-50 split by conservatives over such action.

Many questions surrounding the SBCV's decision deal with relations to the SBC and its agencies.

"Our legal counsel advises us that the Southern Baptist Convention relates directly to individual churches from the various states through the messengers the churches select for that purpose," said Bill Merrell, the SBC Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations, in a written statement.

"The bylaws do not prevent cooperation with more than one convention of Baptists from a geographic area."

"Constitutionally, though the Southern Baptist Convention is independent and sovereign in its own sphere, it does not claim, nor will it attempt, to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, including any convention of Baptists."

"The Executive Committee is charged with receiving and distributing contributions from the churches for missions, theological education, ministry, and evangelism in keeping with the Cooperative Program formula agreed to by the convention. We remain committed to faithfully carrying out that responsibility," he said.

"I don't anticipate (a problem)," said Chauncey, who became full-time director in April. The Executive Committee "won't give us any kind of indication as to how that will be received. They said, 'It's never been done before,' so they really are reluctant to say, 'We will' or 'We won't.'"

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mississippi missionary hurt in Brazil auto-truck accident

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Boyle native Larry Braswell, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, suffered serious head injuries in a mid-morning traffic accident Sept. 18 on a sparsely travelled road near his home in Chapeco, Brazil.

Bill Sellers of Brandon, Braswell's father-in-law, said Braswell, 33, was alone when he collided with the rear of a fully loaded, 18-wheel logging truck, and was struck in the head by a log that crashed through the windshield of his Volkswagen Jetta station wagon.

The log scalped him along the

right side of his head and severed a major vein to his brain, Sellers said, but the truck driver was not aware that his vehicle had been hit from behind and proceeded along his route.

Fortunately, a motorist following Braswell on the little-used road stopped to assist, and Braswell was rushed to a hospital in Lajes, Sellers said.

Doctors stemmed the bleeding and sutured his scalp back into place, but not before Braswell lost 30% of his total blood supply, Sellers said.

When his brain began to swell,

he was transferred to a larger hospital in Florianopolis for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) test to be done, according to Sellers.

The MRI results — which were inspected by an American radiologist on a Baptist mission trip in the area — showed serious contusions (bruises) on the frontal lobes of Braswell's brain, from which he is expected to make a full recovery, Sellers said.

Braswell sustained no injuries other than the head trauma and will not return to the United States unless his condition worsens, Sellers added.

Braswell and his wife Alicia have been working as missionaries in Brazil for 14 months. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Trinity Church, Oak Grove, La.

The Braswells have three children: Wray, 7; Drew, 4; and Caitlyn, 3.

The family can be contacted at Caixa Postal 61; 89802-970 Chapeco, S.C.; Brazil.

See You at the Pole



Students at Murrah High School in Jackson gather around the school's flagpole at 7 a.m. on Sept. 18 for the annual "See You at the Pole" observance — an event steadily growing in popularity around the state and nation. A complete report on "See You at the Pole" will be included in next week's edition of the newspaper. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Life Chain anti-abortion campaign slated for Oct. 6 at Mississippi sites

Life Chain, an annual expression of opposition to abortion, will be held from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, at more than 300 locations across the nation and at several Mississippi sites.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is working with other Christian denominations and churches to present a quiet, visible statement against abortion.

Life Chain is the opportunity for persons in their local areas to prayerfully, peacefully, and legally come together in a show of solidarity that indicates abortion is grievously wrong and that the church which Christ founded should affirm the sanctity of human life.

Persons participating in Life Chain stand along

public roads and streets in areas approved by local authorities and silently hold signs with simple messages such as "Abortion Kills Children."

Life Chain began in 1987 in Yuba, California, and by February 1991 over 170 had been held in 40 states and several foreign countries.

CAC urges local churches to be involved in this legal, peaceful, and highly visible statement against abortion.

For more information, contact CAC at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651; or call Royce Dunn, National Life Chain Director, at (916) 671-5500.

Holmes is CAC consultant for women's and family issues.

Winter Bible Study preview scheduled at four schools

The 50th anniversary Winter Bible Study will be previewed Sept. 30-Oct. 3 at four locations around the state by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Dates and locations for this year's study of Ephesians are:

— Sept. 30: Panchal Student Center, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain.

— Oct. 1: BSM Center at Delta State University, Cleveland.

— Oct. 2: B. C. Rodgers Student Center at Mississippi College, Clinton.

— Oct. 3: Thomas Business Building at William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

Leading the study at Blue Mountain College will be David Dockery, president of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and author of the Winter Bible Study course book.

Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First Church, Columbia, and former professor at New Orleans Seminary, will lead the final three sessions.

Each session begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes no later than 3:30 p.m. Dinner and complimentary lunch will be provided by the host schools and the Sunday School Department. No reservations are required.

For details, contact Larry Salter in the Sunday School Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Mississippi pastor joining Henry on Ridgecrest, Glorieta campaign

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry will chair a national capital campaign for facilities improvement at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Centers.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, will serve as an at-large member of the campaign.

Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, said, "I am pleased and honored to be part of this campaign to ready Glorieta and Ridgecrest for meeting the ever-changing needs of our congregations."

"From the time I served as a summer staffer at Ridgecrest, I have personally experienced and witnessed the impact and the commitments that were made as a result of attending one of the centers," he said.

Henry said the campaign will be targeted to about 500 people with the capability to make large gifts.

No funds will be solicited that otherwise would go to a local church or to the Cooperative Program (Southern Baptists' plan for funding state and national causes) and no funds will be solicited from churches.

The theme of the campaign is "Renewing the Place of Renewal."

The campaign was launched at the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans with the introduction of "Second the Motion."

Throughout the summer, hundreds sent in "Second the

Motion" testimonies of their experiences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest as a show of support for the conference centers.

Testimonies are continuing to be received at the conference cen-

ters and the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, which owns both facilities.

Glorieta is located near Santa Fe, N.M., and Ridgecrest, near Asheville, N.C.

MBREA to host fall luncheon as MBC gathers in Jackson

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA) has announced plans for the annual fall luncheon on Monday, Oct. 28, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. The fellowship luncheon is held each year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC). All members of MBREA and Mississippi Childhood Education Association (MCEA) are encouraged to attend.

Entertainment for the luncheon will be "Cross Country," featuring Boyd Tweedy and R. L. Hullum of Petal.

Reservations are required (\$10 per person by Oct. 16). The cost for reservations made after that date will be \$15. Reservations with payment may be mailed to MBREA Treasurer, Cortez Hutchinson, P. O. Box 780, Yazoo City MS 39194.

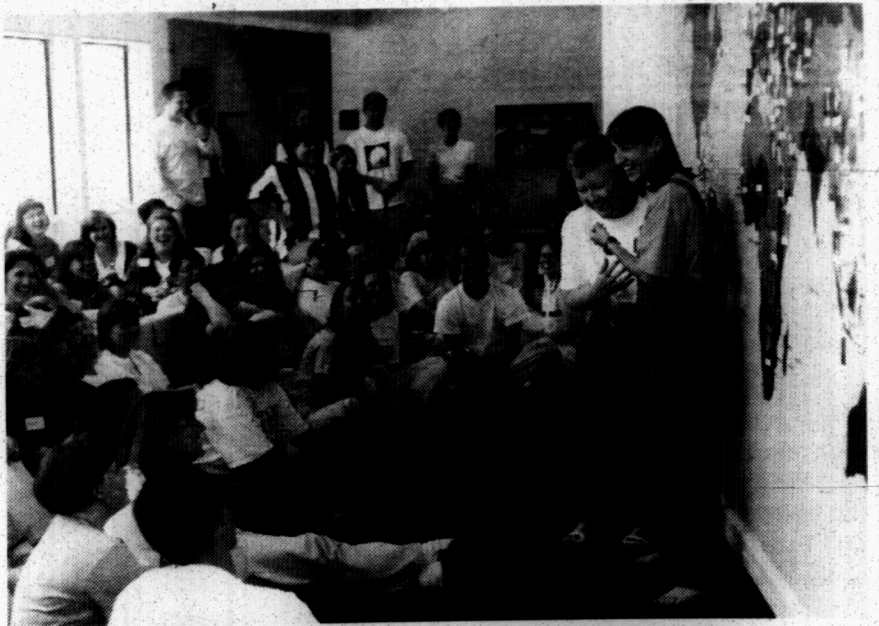
State Ag Missions Fellowship sets pre-convention meeting

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Missions Fellowship is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Oct. 28 at First Church, Jackson.

Featured speaker for the meeting will be Kurt A. Lawrence, agricultural missionary to Thailand. He previously served as youth director at Calvary Church, Fort Collins, Colorado, and as a crop consultant in Johnson, Kansas. He is currently an agricultural evangelist in Nan, Thailand, and serves as director of the Thailand Baptist Rural Life Development Center.

The program will also include a report on each of the projects that Agricultural Missions members are currently supporting. There will be an election of officers for the new year.

Agricultural Missions is a part of the 1996 Lay Missions Conference.



Missions sendoff

Sharron Hawk (standing, left), a former Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, and Christine Carter (standing, right), share a lighter moment as 68 new Southern Baptist journeymen missionaries wrap up four weeks of training at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's (FMB) Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., and prepare for their field assignments. Hawk is currently director of the FMB's Missionary Orientation Department. Carter, of Fort Smith, Ark., is a 1994 graduate of Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, Ark. The FMB is headquartered in Richmond, Va. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

Homecomings

First, Brandon: Sept. 28 and 29; First Family Reunion; Saturday, reception at 3 p.m., followed by homecoming event at 4 p.m.; Sunday, Robert H. "Bob" Jackson, former pastor, will preach at 9 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. services; lunch in church's banquet hall; and 1 p.m. praise service. For further information, call the church office at (601) 825-6766.

New Hope, Coldwater: Oct. 6; 11 a.m.; David Condit, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch served; afternoon activities include church

history, special music, and former pastors speaking; Richard Donahue, pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: Oct. 13; 11 a.m.; singspiration, 7 p.m.; Bobby Smith, Pelahatchie, guest speaker; Kent Campbell, pastor.

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Georgia Baptist Convention leaders vote to censure Mercer's president over book

MACON, Ga. (ABP) — Georgia Baptist Convention leaders have censured Mercer University President Kirby Godsey over a new book that is dividing conservatives and moderates in the state.

The book, titled "When We Talk about God ... Let's Be Honest," was released this summer by Smyth & Helwys Publishing.

Even many of Godsey's moderate defenders are said to be distancing themselves from the book, and some are angry with him for inciting a controversy just as Mercer's new theology school is seeking to compete for prospective students with conservative seminaries owned by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Others say the conflict will hinder moderates in a key race that is developing for the presidency of the state convention this fall.

The Georgia Baptist executive committee overwhelmingly passed a resolution Sept. 10 urging Godsey to recant of views expressed in the book and asking Mercer trustees to respond to the committee's concerns.

The resolution states that in his book, Godsey "has departed signif-

icantly from Baptist doctrine" and that the book is "injurious to our mission as a state convention."

The resolution said Godsey's book is misleading to unbelievers, is alienating large segments of the state convention, is heightening resentment among Georgia Baptists and "places the university's relationship with this convention in jeopardy."

The resolution requests that trustees of Mercer University address concerns about Godsey's beliefs, invite the state executive committee chairman to speak to trustees at their next meeting, and asks the chairman of Mercer's trustees to respond to the resolution at a Dec. 10 meeting of the state executive committee.

Godsey did not return a phone call to Associated Baptist Press, but a Macon newspaper quoted a university official as saying the

president has no intention of recanting or resigning from his position.

Two weeks before the Georgia executive committee action, the Baptist Sunday School Board pulled the book from shelves at the 63 Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores across the nation.

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The Congregation of
Parkway Baptist Church
Cordially Invites You to an

Open House

Sunday, October 6, 1996 • 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
802 North Frontage Road • I-20 West, Exit 35
Clinton, Mississippi

past Woodmoor Subdivision



Service of Dedication

Sunday, October 13, 1996
10:00 a.m. Worship

Ken Anderson, Pastor

Church Office: 924-9912

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 26, 1996

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



Mississippi Baptists who are involved in any facet of the ministry of the church media library are invited to join us in the *Twenty-Fifth Annual Mississippi Church Media Library Conference*.

—Farrell Blankenship, Director, Department of Broadcast Services

25th Annual CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY CONFERENCE

October 18-19, 1996

First Baptist Church, McComb, Miss.



Pat Brown is a consultant in the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville. Pat came to the Board from the Southern Baptist Historical Commission where she served as librarian. She brings years of experience as a church librarian, professional librarian and conference leader.



Steve Gateley is technical consultant in the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville. Throughout his career, he has been active in The Associational Church Media Library Organization.



Barbara Freese is lead consultant in the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville. Freese was reference library assistant with the Shawnee Library System, Carterville, Ill., for 10 years before assuming her present position.



Jackie Anderson is retired senior staff consultant of the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB, Nashville. She has co-authored and authored many Church Media Library books.



David Tiller is our new director of the Church Media Library Program of the BSSB in Nashville.



Linda Reeves is the preschool/children's consultant for the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

For more information, contact Judy Chen with the Department of Broadcast Services at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions

For 9th - 12th Graders

November '96 Choral Auditions

5th	5-8 p.m.	FBC, Summit
7th	5-8 p.m.	FBC, Ocean Springs
9th	10-Noon	Southside Baptist Church, Meridian
11th	5-8 p.m.	Baptist Building, Jackson
12th	5-8 p.m.	Clarksdale Baptist Church, Clarksdale
14th	5-8 p.m.	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
16th	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo

November '96 Choral and Orchestra Auditions

21st	5-8 p.m.	William Carey College, Hattiesburg
22nd	5-8 p.m.	Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon
23rd	Noon-4 p.m.	North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Choir auditions will include:

- A solo (no tapes)
- Sight reading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn (all girls will sing the alto part)
- A registration form, which you may request from the Church Music Department, may be duplicated

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece • Scales • Sight reading
- Technique and tune
- A registration form, which you may request from the Church Music Department, may be duplicated

Contact the Church Music Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800 for more details on these auditions.

Annual Conference for Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives

First Baptist Church, Jackson
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1996 • 1-4:30 P.M.

✦ Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information and Support for the minister's wife!

✦ There is no cost for this conference.

Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 for registration information or to learn more about this exciting event.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS YEAR-TO-DATE, JUNE 30, 1995 COMPARED TO...

CP G

CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER
ADAMS				CALHOUN				CLAY				GULF COAST			
BETHLEHEM	722.73	276.88	579.18	ANTIOCH	821.16	1,091.29	1,229.69	CEDAR BLUFF	19,459.56	19,918.55	5,986.50	BAYSIDE PARK MSN	1,053.12	1,094.65	578.17
CALVARY	1,630.00	748.00	790.00	BANNER	2,140.87	1,680.79	2,698.47	ENON	1,338.25	985.72	195.00	BAY VISTA	18,514.74	21,668.93	8,449.47
CLIFF TEMPLE	7,204.40	8,900.84	5,707.89	BETHANY	5,160.00	5,160.00	11,524.00	FAITH	1,500.00	1,000.00	2,281.00	BAYOU VIEW	14,213.15	14,188.85	7,688.47
CLOVERDALE	5,751.13	7,031.93	9,185.19	BIG CREEK	7,106.25	6,619.99	9,249.14	FBC WEST POINT	29,620.29	26,261.56	21,581.71	BEL AIRE	2,470.00	3,227.83	2,490.66
CRANFIELD	617.06	729.35	933.31	BRADFORD CHAPEL	1,311.48	1,290.52	3,800.11	HEBRON	1,200.00	1,400.00	2,320.00	BIG LEVEL	4,500.00	4,506.00	2,201.33
PARKWAY	26,706.18	25,356.22	11,668.49	FBC BRUCE	22,392.04	9,400.00	8,845.98	HOPE	70.00	1,051.50	250.00	BIG RIDGE	8,799.66	10,076.49	6,779.76
SOUTHERN HILLS	874.45	145.82	218.03	CALVARY	442.48	682.35	0	MONTPELIER	989.42	1,004.96	1,800.00	BOND	1,122.61	0	1,013.16
FBC NATCHEZ	35,463.88	31,886.33	107,092.00	COLLEGE HILL	725.07	1,039.44	1,461.09	PHEBA	3,552.45	2,991.43	3,307.52	FERNWOOD	1,673.20	1,076.92	739.93
IMMANUEL	6,438.95	6,245.47	5,070.00	CONCORD	1,749.96	1,618.31	3,441.77	SILAM	3,106.30	1,700.00	3,010.87	BROADMOOR	535.57	738.18	1,684.18
MORGANTOWN	10,514.95	9,144.98	4,362.06	DERMA	11,178.20	15,514.00	6,427.45	TRINITY	2,400.00	2,800.00	1,631.00	BRODIE ROAD	1,210.37	810.80	0
NEW HOPE	0	378.77	251.83	DRIVERS FLAT	150	150.00	560.00	WEST END	11,286.60	11,477.01	7,458.31	COMMISSION RD	374.03	0	3,285.37
SPRINGFIELD	1,542.40	1,330.40	1,351.60	DUNCAN HILL	699.50	677.98	0	ASSN. TOTAL	74,820.57	70,520.18	50,579.86	FBC DELISLE	741.30	840.00	450.00
STANTON	4,892.90	4,856.30	4,464.47	ELLARD	1,086.79	1,369.95	978.49					DIAMONDHEAD	8,616.69	9,199.98	3,833.00
WASHINGTON	11,209.83	10,351.11	6,441.91	FBC CALHOUN CITY	33,381.10	28,500.00	26,773.95					EAST HOWARD	341.00	400.00	1,025.00
ASSN. TOTAL	113,588.90	107,382.40	158,115.90	LANTRIP	50.00	100.00	200.00					EMMANUEL	1,459.92	1,698.54	913.05
				LOYD	0	0	150.00					FAITHVIEW	5,169.15	5,779.00	2,259.33
ALCORN				MACEDONIA	1,267.20	1,223.39	1,910.84					FBC MCHENRY	600.00	700.00	1,033.12
ANTIOCH	1,459.86	2,311.50	3,220.39	MIDWAY	1,236.33	617.06	1,546.37					FBC BAY ST LOUIS	13,410.94	11,673.95	7,301.77
BETHLEHEM	2,195.29	1,629.57	5,640.67	MT COMFORT	1,359.92	1,359.60	1,115.68					FBC BILOXI	79,188.05	74,985.78	50,370.62
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,969.20	1,389.76	1,887.68	MT MORIAH	6,194.24	6,759.60	5,731.00					FBC GULFPORT	69,927.25	66,645.00	51,651.51
CALVARY	1,883.74	2,008.49	3,407.55	MT TABOR	300.00	300.00	300.00					FBC WIGGINS	22,145.77	22,618.74	13,457.25
EAST CORINTH	6,158.82	5,287.52	2,809.60	NEW HOPE	448.70	407.58	476.07					FBC LONG BEACH	34,390.32	32,325.43	29,446.52
NORTH CORINTH	0	0	360.00	NEW LIBERTY	928.90	1,120.87	2,125.42					FBC PASS CHRISTIAN	1,081.00	1,135.00	872.00
SOUTH CORINTH	95.00	0	400.00	NEW PROVIDENCE	1,750.86	1,903.36	4,076.90					FBC WAVELAND	592.00	1,053.00	2,578.00
TATE	37,813.76	40,499.89	36,051.41	OAK GROVE	881.00	545.00	622.00					HUDSON-KROHN RD	604.24	1,222.69	938.55
WEST CORINTH	4,933.31	6,070.32	7,680.13	OLDTOWN	1,973.92	2,114.08	3,894.52					GRACE MEMORIAL	14,096.92	14,191.59	10,022.71
COUNTY LINE	420.00	420.00	2,323.15	PARKER	852.51	748.51	30.00					GRACE TEMPLE	215.00	400.00	100.00
DANVILLE	162.38	179.67	179.64	PILGRIMS REST	60.00	165.00	40.00					GULF GARDENS	1,819.67	1,567.13	288.00
FBC CORINTH	52,807.25	59,841.72	30,562.39	PITTSBORO	3,142.35	3,019.67	3,077.56					GULFPORT HGTS	1,200.20	1,038.25	877.93
GLENDALE	6,271.00	6,970.00	4,552.00	PLEASANT HILL	3,355.00	3,082.47	3,042.24					HANDSBORO	12,014.47	12,096.01	11,231.45
HINKLE	7,071.02	4,677.00	925.00	PLEASANT RIDGE	1,680.00	1,680.00	2,993.98					KOREAN MISSION	325.00	150.00	150.00
HOLLY	581.84	786.52	3,351.02	POPLAR SPRINGS	459.49	440.76	657.50					LAKE SHORE	85.28	94.78	61.36
JACINTO	799.78	849.82	556.21	ROCKY BRANCH	585.23	561.11	1,893.47					FBC LIZANA	1,553.89	1,982.96	672.43
KEMPS CHAPEL	646.14	613.76	613.76	ROCKY MOUNT	563.35	594.01	363.27					FBC LYMAN	6,198.25	7,380.77	3,009.44
KENDRICK	608.74	593.66	593.67	SABOUGLA	4,290.76	4,809.36	4,117.81					MICHAEL MEMORIAL	10,928.26	7,928.64	11,881.58
KOSSUTH FIRST	3,612.99	3,267.30	3,814.09	SAREPTA	274.91	513.00	1,677.00					NEW HOPE	6,192.52	7,288.23	9,532.13
LABOR HILL	576.00	458.00	0	SECOND CALHOUN	455.00	513.00	1,677.00					INTERNATIONAL MSN	328.45	606.48	371.00
LONE OAK	0	0	500.00	SHILOH	1,525.98	928.33	8,870.39					HIGHLAND	1,111.90	1,040.84	0
LOVE JOY	0	0	800.00	SPRING HILL	1,207.76	1,376.10	249.00					N. LONG BEACH	2,156.11	2,905.79	3,303.40
OAKLAND	22,622.01	24,066.56	26,845.83	TURKEY CREEK	48.00	48.00	8,397.31					NORTHWARD	180.00	150.00	733.00
RIDGECREST	280.98	0	227.00	FBC VARDAMAN	12,146.69	12,630.07	8,397.31					OLIVET	517.00	1,463.05	1,015.75
RIENZI	4,861.08	4,753.98	11,389.71	VICTORY	152.44	1,464.82	934.17					KITTWAKE	1,538.00	2,446.00	0
SHILOH	3,146.06	3,949.76	5,041.38	WESTSIDE	1,748.39	1,464.82	934.17					PASS ROAD	0	200.00	1,050.00
TISHOMINGO CHAPEL	1,224.55	1,113.35	1,615.95	ASSN. TOTAL	137,283.80	123,306.40	136,857.30					FBC S. PEARLINGTON	3,480.50	1,937.00	2,257.13
TUSCUMBIA	812.13	830.65	1,245.96									PERKINSON	8,117.47	9,170.24	3,444.67
UNION	3,323.30	2,437.65	5,317.88	CARROLL								COWAN ROAD	3,821.35	3,190.53	959.59
UNITY	606.33	585.67	1,909.80	BLACK HAWK	168.60	878.40	1,318.60					POPPS FERRY	942.70	1,338.34	1,030.31
WHEELER GROVE	17,663.74	19,176.67	5,718.26	CALVARY	743.59	768.02	2,444.80					RIVERSIDE	1,195.41	1,214.49	1,297.00
ASSN. TOTAL	184,606.30	194,768.80	169,540.10	CARROLLTON	18,609.65	19,652.11	11,772.71					SHARON	2,000.00	1,495.00	1,942.66
				CENTERVILLE	1,048.04	1,086.13	694.67					SHILOH	2,607.45	2,445.25	784.00
ATTALA				COILA	200.00	0	410.00					SHORELINE PARK	980.00	969.00	836.50
BEAR CREEK	60.00	60.00	60.00	HARMONY	500.00	300.00	350.00					SUCCESS	1,091.71	1,027.17	3,615.76
BEEBA	696.00	696.00	1,331.00	HICKORY GROVE	0	340.49	340.49					TRINITY	830.00	645.50	622.50
BOWLIN	241.00	96.00	32.00	LIBERTY	2,280.68	2,547.60	2,616.90					TUXECHENA	75.00	0	30.00
CARSON RIDGE	257.00	214.00	214.00	MCCARLEY	0	510.00	324.00					VIETNAMESE MSN	200.00	400.00	0
COUNTY LINE	1,137.89	1,264.00	1,799.00	MT PISGAH	2,336.93	2,322.31	3,461.13					WEST GULFPORT	807.20	450.37	1,028.00
DOTY SPRINGS	0	0	1,114.84	MT OLIVE	4,299.78	6,356.15	7,266.03					ROBINSON ROAD	2,828.00	2,818.00	1,954.35
EBCNEZER	163.00	259.00	259.00	NEW BETHLE	494.80	1,224.29	2,387.48					ROBINWOOD	3,221.80	3,249.57	2,318.00
EDGEFIELD	291.00	591.00	246.00	N. CARROLLTON	4,713.20	4,929.22	6,291.56					WOOLMARKET	9,174.99	11,531.03	5,794.23
ETHEL	2,561.00	3,014.00	2,967.00	SHILOH	613.00	516.00	380.00					ASSN. TOTAL	395,998.30	393,027.80	283,816.10
FBC KOSCIUSKO	57,139.74	51,818.91	37,625.99	PROVIDENCE	1,757.57	2,262.15	2,311.98								
HURRICANE	168.50	226.89	305.51	MALMAISON	1,726.00	1,834.00	2,535.50								
JERUSALEM	800.52	911.84	2,276.96	VAIDEN	3,475.82	4,638.15	8,341.84								
MACADAMS	4,074.12	3,528.93	6,853.47	VALLEY HILL	2,142.19	671.96	1,190.96								
MCCOOL	4,453.41	4,193.92	4,386.08	ASSN. TOTAL	45,109.85	50,836.98	54,258.65								
NEW SALEM	274.74	331.49	341.49												
PARKWAY	8,352.00	8,150.42	8,584.42	CHICKASAW											
PEELER MEMORIAL	81.15	89.00	159.00	AMITY	806.63	632.64	1,120.43								
PILGRIMS REST	647.59	663.05	1,276.25	ARBOR GROVE	1,750.02	1,750.02	1,082.18								
SALLIS	2,760.00	2,839.16	6,785.00	BETHLE	2,759.99	2,398.59	3,540.00								
SAND HILL	1,067.80	860.70	833.80	CARNATION	1,394.85	1,273.15	906.00								
SECOND KOSCIUSKO	5,439.00	5,027.00	4,647.00	EGYPT	0	283.00	0								
SPRINGDALE	3,289.54	2,587.36	1,293.68	FELLOWSHIP	280.00	283.00	7,755.25								
UNITY	660.00	783.00	783.00	FBC HOUSTON	8,029.44	58,418.03	8,775.25								
WILLIAMSVILLE	6,043.00	8,198.00	11,171.40	FBC OKOLUNA	17,612.00	16,013.53	9,878.65								
YOCKANOOKANY	967.02	967.02	1,913.26	FBC HOLIKA	4,917.56	7,350.49	3,013.28								
ZAMA	333.42	162.56	135.46	MCCOY	0	0	50.00								
ASSN. TOTAL	101,959.60	97,533.25	97,394.61	MT OLIVE	651.01	413.96	1,448.94								
				NEW PROSPECT	65.00	110									

GIFTS

...COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS YEAR-TO-DATE, JUNE 30, 1996

CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER
GREENVILLE	1,117.00	1,140.00	0	NEW HOPE	622.90	400.85	63.00	MARION	305.74	352.75	0	NEW SALEM	1,282.94	1,370.37	857.11	BETHEL	0	0	1,775.00
HICKORY GROVE	1,620.30	3,214.00	2,934.32	NINETEENTH AVE	4,630.39	5,168.87	3,405.41	ANTIOCH	17,587.01	19,243.06	8,810.98	NEW ZION	150.00	150.00	376.00	BRAZIL	75.00	31.10	31.10
IMMANUEL	13,696.33	12,716.15	5,903.34	PETAL HARVEY	29,990.47	27,346.74	21,159.94	BUNKER HILL	6,872.46	6,872.46	4,763.84	OAK GROVE	329.00	350.00	781.01	CASCILLA	171.82	209.21	2,219.13
MILITARY	875.00	900.00	1,477.80	PROVIDENCE	4,782.27	5,837.22	3,992.48	CALVARY	6,732.26	6,486.00	4,434.40	PIONEER	450.00	450.00	2,705.52	ABC CHARLESTON	10,058.83	8,349.94	7,518.89
OKAHOLA	2,028.21	2,238.87	3,108.88	RAWLINS SPRINGS	17,198.47	10,121.05	8,405.82	CEDAR GROVE	982.00	608.00	464.24	ROBINSON	781.00	684.00	1,678.00	EMMANUEL	40,604.29	52,104.50	21,287.51
FBC OLOH	7,322.08	8,444.77	3,031.50	CALVARY	4,767.00	5,290.00	4,760.94	CLEAR CREEK	4,350.00	4,350.00	3,391.16	THOMPSON	2,934.50	4,319.22	3,925.13	CORINTH	577.02	886.31	1,491.79
ORAL	3,045.58	4,554.15	1,939.00	SOUTH 28TH AVE	2,604.00	2,962.39	3,344.13	EDNA	1,774.66	2,071.00	1,916.65	WOODVILLE	111.75	0	250.00	ENON	1,487.49	1,441.03	1,773.53
RICHBURG	909.98	1,103.68	558.75	SUNRISE	6,374.82	7,018.16	2,884.83	EMMANUEL	65,172.88	65,723.22	49,691.62	ZION HILL	13,462.23	9,127.28	10,659.53	FBC GRENADA	65,000.18	64,999.86	45,141.68
TRINITY	3,828.77	2,504.33	2,039.42	TEMPLE HATTIESBURG	109,225.20	129,855.50	59,226.45	FBC COLUMBIA	6,767.31	7,931.61	3,837.94	ASSN. TOTAL	119,042.70	108,511.20	108,832.30	COWART	996.18	1,015.37	1,497.29
ASSN. TOTAL	107,332.30	105,092.70	75,009.90	TEMPLE PETAL	0	0	15.00	FOXWORTH	4,642.73	4,734.28	3,718.84				FAITH	892.96	503.55	1,031.25	
LAUDERDALE	4,429.00	4,174.80	3,011.65	THIRTY EIGHTH AVE	16,252.05	17,542.90	13,592.66	GOSS	982.00	1,196.00	1,365.85				FRIENDSHIP EAST	1,259.00	1,286.00	1,341.00	
ARKADELPHIA	1,038.00	480.00	1,034.00	UNIVERSITY	718.33	472.40	4,174.56	HOLLY SPRINGS	2,429.02	2,135.59	7,249.60				FRIENDSHIP WEST	691.20	489.23	971.64	
ARROWOOD	0	50.00	191.88	LINCOLN RD	525.00	720.00	3,360.00	HURRICANE CREEK	9,962.95	10,809.00	7,210.42				GORE SPRINGS	3,987.82	3,510.39	2,531.64	
BAILEY	7,249.62	7,740.93	4,369.58	ASSN. TOTAL	434,309.80	457,631.70	342,906.70	IMPROVE	1,204.80	1,204.80	733.43				MT PISGAH	550.15	474.90	1,333.03	
BETHANY	950.00	1,158.00	915.00					KOKOMO	14,893.12	11,641.07	6,432.42				HARDY	2,759.47	3,076.47	3,588.20	
BRIARWOOD	4,416.67	4,500.00	10,825.75	LEE	11,912.44	10,968.59	6,712.92	NEW HOPE	23,603.93	23,293.51	10,168.23				PARKS	821.78	766.38	725.22	
CALVARY	2,650.17	1,817.57	3,434.96	AUBURN	24,394.39	18,358.32	7,197.42	NORTH COLUMBIA	446.17	244.41	297.00				PAUL	977.24	375.82	974.33	
CARMEL	7,892.41	6,584.43	4,246.20	BELDEN	2,000.00	100.00	900.00	PINE BURR	1,511.02	3,901.83	3,265.00				HEBRON	4,142.53	4,240.91	2,735.33	
CAUSEYVILLE	2,398.17	2,118.88	1,588.90	BETHANY	2,000.00	2,000.00	0	SANDY HOOK	1,487.47	895.88	1,478.75				PAYNES	1,020.09	1,626.60	2,189.72	
CENTER GROVE	350.00	300.00	220.00	BIRMINGHAM	4,033.94	3,890.16	2,297.25	SHILOH	2,060.00	2,105.00	4,765.60				PHILIPP	404.59	463.69	1,018.28	
DALEVILLE	375.00	400.00	332.29	BISSELL	145,611.80	140,378.10	64,707.86	SPRING COTTAGE	314.18	334.42	0				HOLCOMB	5,007.82	4,001.69	3,892.32	
TRINITY	4,355.38	4,401.84	5,034.64	BREWER	6,096.45	5,305.52	3,134.88	WHITE BLUFF	175,810.30	180,915.50	126,385.00				SPRING HILL	1,200.00	800.00	2,234.10	
EIGHTH AVE	8,387.71	7,668.46	2,269.07	CALVARY	3,569.04	2,837.86	2,443.94								LEFLORE	500.00	500.00	1,235.00	
FELLOWSHIP	28,088.72	29,554.73	25,302.87	CAMP CREEK	1,069.02	1,166.15	2,610.57								FBC SUMNER	2,500.04	2,500.04	10,797.70	
FIFTEENTH AVE	14,573.40	28,278.69	10,789.49	CHESTERVILLE	3,328.55	3,386.63	3,436.99								PLEASANT GROVE	100.00	150.00	836.00	
FBC COLLINSVILLE	9,109.76	9,517.71	2,962.66	DOTY CHAPEL	34,234.01	38,565.44	11,793.95								FBC TUTTLE	3,244.20	2,869.48	4,274.28	
FBC LAUDERDALE	41,352.99	55,222.21	36,136.46	EAST MT ZION	2,711.20	1,556.67	800.00								PROVIDENCE	658.17	820.96	981.62	
FBC MARION	1,651.09	236.10	10.00	EAST HEIGHTS	28,407.33	30,693.72	11,835.12								TEMPLE	675.26	366.46	196.59	
FBC MERIDIAN	10,260.99	11,384.50	11,835.76	EUCALITUBA	71,132.46	68,533.64	47,449.46								WEBB	2,176.73	2,185.74	1,903.81	
GOODWATER	28.00	679.39	957.12	FBC BALDWIN	1,050.00	1,050.00	236.74								ASSN. TOTAL	161,156.00	170,690.50	137,227.30	
HEBRON	46,866.06	53,608.27	27,401.99	FBC TUPELO	109,377.00	114,846.00	54,074.17												
HICKORY GROVE	300.00	300.00	1,711.00	GRACE MEMORIAL	4,436.47	4,634.96	3,172.91												
KIEWANEE	1,134.00	1,135.00	568.00	HARRISBURG	1,275.20	1,495.77	75.00												
LONG CREEK	4,252.45	5,248.80	7,089.07	HAWKINS	1,675.75	1,612.93	1,716.75												
LIBERTY	4,296.47	4,530.99	6,057.41	FBC NETTLETON	8,163.30	9,921.82	4,116.56												
MACEDONIA	948.33	897.17	953.59	NEW HOPE	4,232.88	3,805.90	2,016.87												
MIDWAY	3,539.32	4,090.26	23,325.12	OLD UNION	125.00	150.00	650.00												
MT GILEAD	3,915.14	3,757.16	3,622.82	PALESTINE	736.91	0.00	300.00												
MT HOREB	1,600.00	1,200.00	1,963.35	PALMETTO	100.00	0.00	300.00												
MT OLIVE	5,108.38	4,448.60	15,801.03	PARKSIDE	14,724.00	15,462.00	9,551.00												
MT VERNON	10,630.44	11,834.54	18,038.65	PARKWAY	8,860.02	9,489.00	9,104.25												
NEW HOPE	21,972.97	28,092.48	11,908.65	FBC PLANTERSVILLE	3,917.73	5,258.17	3,672.35												
NORTHCREEK	1,717.02	1,708.16	2,235.15	PRICEVILLE	2,773.35	2,639.61	2,175.86												
NEW BAPTIST MSN	8,818.92	7,452.14	12,813.47	RICHMOND	18,183.43	18,963.32	9,337.85												
OAK GROVE	7,832.95	7,714.98	6,257.37	FBC SALTILLO	7,002.11	6,331.52	4,558.54												
OAKLAND HGTS	2,041.17	1,742.00	2,583.00	SHERMAN	2,000.00	2,000.00	400.00												
PINE FOREST	0	0	25.00	SKYLINE TUPELO	34,556.32	32,241.64	9,570.00												
PINE GROVE	45,000.00	45,416.69	22,789.53	WEST JACKSON ST	920.00	983.00	625.00												
POPLAR SPRINGS DR	10,593.00	10,082.00	2,939.00	UNION CHAPEL	212.00	0	0												
RUSSELL	450.00	15,905.20	14,369.21	TEMPLE TUPELO	404.50	517.50	617.50												
SOUTH SIDE	14,517.64	21,768.15	24,876.69	LIMESTONE	0	180.00	598.00												
STATE BLVD	32,107.38	6,718.86	5,437.92	UNION	22,204.83	21,895.41	19,291.10												
TOOMSUBA	6,651.91	16,932.55	11,669.24	FBC VERONA	0	0	0												
WESTWOOD	18,157.86	481,054.60	399,705.40	ASSN. TOTAL	600,977.80	603,662.70	324,853.50												
ASSN. TOTAL	453,187.00	481,054.60	399,705.40																
LAWRENCE	0	0	891.10	LEFLORE	6,465.88	8,669.34	4,410.75	METRO	51,783.40	62,328.21	61,939.92	MONTGOMERY	977.09	1,014.80	2,204.30	NORTH DELTA	480.00	270.00	780.00
ANTIOCH	2,537.80	2,446.86	2,558.44	CALVARY	4,471.52	3,289.11	3,363.92	ALTA WOODS	4,645.52	4,968.71	2,432.69	BETHLEHEM	10,255.10	9,227.69	12,782.04	BELEN	262.12	102.66	102.66
ARM	13,609.21	16,821.04	5,652.03	CHRIST	28,625.00	27,536.00	15,306.80	BETHESDA	1,216.41	1,344.80	3,867.10	DUCK HILL	12,786.47	10,880.92	6,317.20	BEREA	682.08	950.41	5.00
BETHEL	8,271.72	9,473.73	6,033.20	FBC GREENWOOD	12,411.36	8,058.07	4,807.83	BEULAH MEMORIAL	125.06	0	0	ESKRIDGE	0	50.00	189.00	CHERRY STREET	916.35	1,013.04	1,890.21
CALVARY	4,275.59	4,875.16	1,430.50	IMMANUEL	9,308.23	8,721.34	5,877.39	BURCH HILL	2,306.81	2,368.68	1,501.02	FBC WINONA	70,171.98	71,285.55	35,043.57	CLARKSDALE	24,198.29	24,822.37	12,703.17
CARMEL	2,524.57	1,865.91	1,043.17	FBC ITTA BENA	429.00	725.00	650.00	BOLTON	9,792.91	9,909.24	8,960.56	HEBRON	1,042.99	1,063.50	2,496.88	CROWDER	534.65	703.70	1,037.30
CROOKED CREEK	767.00	843.00	3,746.00	FBC MINTER CITY	2,917.67	2,580.87	2,034.47	BRIARWOOD DR	190,588.10	221,131.20	128,675.50	KILMICHAEL	5,976.77	6,682.48	3,507.80	DARLING	6,298.99	6,543.12	4,819.36
FAITH	750.15	702.63	717.00	MORGAN CITY	552.75	72.05	0	BROADWOOD	851.98	500.00	884.50	MISSION	144.73	107.30	21.46	FBC LAMBERT	5,290.65	9,283.64	5,563.72
HEPZIBAH	427.07	1,625.00	19,893.55	N GREENWOOD	25,425.47	26,400.14	15,918.23	BYRAM	0	0	1,404.86	NORTH WINONA	17,348.52	24,726.45	12,728.74	FBC SLEDGE	1,083.62	1,370.59	1,058.74
JAYESS	30,667.87	28,956.59	12,712.98	PHILLIPSTON	671.17	648.25	139.00	CALVARY CANTON	29,118.29	25,867.62	27,643.98	PINE FOREST	237.00	208.50	1,524.50	FBC TUNICA	8,740.36	9,022.93	9,108.34
MONTICELLO	25,806.46	29,973.27	12,712.98	SCHLATER	905.00	900.00	1,350.00	CALVARY JACKSON	4,919										

CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER	CP GIFTS	6/30/95	6/30/96	OTHER
STURGIS	6,917.32	6,469.70	9,505.57	OAK DALE	2,759.93	2,428.09	2,373.41	SEBASTOPOL	7,193.73	9,455.12	9,677.95	WINSTON			
WAKE FOREST	1,446.43	2,446.99	1,029.75	IMMANUEL	2,025.45	469.05	234.52	SPRINGFIELD	12,250.14	12,551.82	11,830.65	ANTIOCH	942.00	1,241.00	5,451.00
ASSN. TOTAL	148,187.80	173,798.20	131,461.70	LIBERTY	2,655.41	9,962.84	5,443.50	STEELE	794.48	756.26	1,263.97	BETHESDA	2,299.14	2,417.22	2,071.17
PANOLA				LOCUST HILL	1,300.00	1,300.00	2,340.00	TEMPLE	845.55	1,224.40	4,200.00	ELMO	5,565.62	6,747.52	7,747.52
ASKEW	250.00	250.00	250.00	LONGVIEW	4,152.00	11,303.00	4,392.12	TWO MILE				FAYETTE	1,442.00	1,726.00	2,582.00
CALVARY	3,926.64	3,995.78	5,368.47	MACEDONIA			122.00	ASSN. TOTAL	112,643.70	111,300.00	111,035.10	UNION	249.80	221.90	221.90
COMO	4,397.05	2,905.20	1,410.10	MIDWAY	2,314.25	1,636.44	3,253.42	SHARKEY-ISAQUENA				BEECH GROVE	1,482.89	1,305.77	847.52
COURTLAND	1,454.00	1,627.00	1,155.00	NEW FAITH	1,690.24	1,675.20	2,546.57	FBC ANGUILLA	9,776.50	9,139.90	5,261.45	BETHESDA	3,130.00	2,599.00	2,177.00
CRENSHAW	3,639.00	3,551.00	3,243.52	NEW HOPE	150.00	150.00	150.00	CARY	400.00	460.00	96.00	ELMO	181.00	258.00	348.00
NORTH BATESVILLE	3,200.00	2,000.00	1,110.00	OAK HILL	3,397.80	4,387.11	3,857.63	DEER CREEK	3,325.76	2,466.58	2,256.66	FAYETTE	2,805.83	3,652.39	4,928.10
ENID LAKE	968.68	1,443.98	854.67	PINEY GROVE	855.59	983.59	600.00	DELTA CITY		300.00	50.00	HERMANVILLE	595.73	573.60	225.41
ENON	1,222.00	1,253.00	770.00	RANDOLPH	2,917.97	2,834.89	3,230.46	FBC ROLLING FORK	12,670.25	15,120.70	6,036.94	PATTISON	255.64	264.25	486.25
FIRST FAITH	498.70	573.16	150.00	SHADY GROVE	1,922.00	1,833.00	5,757.02	STRAIGHT BAYOU	2,912.81	2,825.79	4,862.57	PLEASANT HILL	811.00	1,163.00	1,691.00
FBC BATESVILLE	67,584.80	63,364.08	31,745.00	SPRINGVILLE	441.59	570.87	561.76	VALLEY PARK	3,105.45	3,462.43	2,782.48	PORT GIBSON	4,429.40	5,490.92	5,804.40
GOOD HOPE	2,402.40	2,292.73	4,185.00	THAXTON	1,902.18	2,198.07	4,168.97	ASSN. TOTAL	32,190.77	33,775.40	21,346.10	RED LICK	125.00	125.00	125.00
HEBRON	4,488.80	3,509.04	1,061.76	TOCCOPOLA	360.32	148.39	97.00	SIMPSON				SHILOH	1,738.65	1,249.89	4,421.34
IMMANUEL	863.11	1,184.77	901.48	TOXISH	1,260.00	1,260.00	1,900.00	ANTIOCH	2,502.85	2,542.53	2,881.01	UNITY	293.00	404.00	200.00
LIBERTY HILL	3,553.50	3,152.00	1,548.25	TROY	1,425.50	1,029.75	1,366.59	ATHENS			28.00	ASSN. TOTAL	17,033.75	18,169.95	22,503.15
LOCKE STATION	2,998.38	2,604.86	2,161.41	TURNPIKE	1,382.86	1,216.56	50.00	BETHLEHEM			5,000.00	AMAZIAH	1,050.00	900.00	782.81
McIVOR	630.95	1,341.34	1,307.00	VALLEY GROVE	1,878.33	1,948.43	1,508.42	BEULAH	507.70	256.00	1,748.45	BEECH SPRINGS	500.00	500.00	588.00
PEACH CREEK	1,196.41	1,581.94	6,865.27	WEST HEIGHTS	50,840.00	62,192.86	14,661.47	BLUE SPRINGS	1,575.93	1,964.14	1,193.50	BETHEL	1,637.76	1,498.74	3,222.48
PHARISIA	256.70	283.72	183.00	WOODLAND	2,207.66	929.52	2,592.97	CENTER	4,923.56	4,725.40	3,877.65	BEULAH	2,425.11	5,102.41	660.00
PILGRIMS REST	2,670.80	3,322.15	7,406.00	ZION	6,293.68	6,594.28	4,852.15	CORNERVILLE	1,987.87	1,802.13	2,329.82	BLUE SPRINGS	1,478.29	938.65	0
POPE	4,578.00	6,315.00	2,190.00	ASSN. TOTAL	215,455.30	235,084.40	158,514.30	ELKSTOWN	100.00	150.00	0	CLARKSON	4,923.56	4,725.40	3,877.65
ROSE HILL	212.00	255.00	556.54	PRENTISS				ELLISVILLE	3,046.70	9,908.65	13,502.75	SHILOH	2,112.28	2,735.63	2,924.25
FBC SARDIS	17,887.51	17,424.21	23,484.17	CALVARY	1,780.08	1,510.59	453.00	FBC NEW ALBANY	51,582.46	48,433.31	36,918.93	SINGLETON	436.05	466.60	946.50
SARDIS LAKE	2,269.44	2,485.39	1,139.67	CANDLERS CHAPEL	770.60	700.75	1,833.89	FREDONIA	4,876.36	5,044.91	10,685.39	SOUTH LOUISVILLE	7,319.67	7,972.91	1,856.17
SHADY GROVE	2,004.00	2,297.90	1,978.24	CRESTWOOD	906.88	998.13	1,720.01	GLENFIELD	1,280.42	1,699.26	828.00	UNION RIDGE	500.00	500.00	410.00
TOWNA	930.69	979.72	884.00	EAST BOONEVILLE	11,567.92	124,243.50	15,352.82	HARMONY	6,251.96	5,968.26	2,168.00	WEISS CHAPEL	1,829.53	2,130.57	4,860.09
UNION	786.83	667.42	440.44	EAST MARIETTA	691.31	920.65	0	HILLCREST	11,580.14	15,359.73	26,188.87	WEST END	374.50	574.00	824.00
WEST BATESVILLE				EAST PRENTISS	2,915.21	3,322.70	2,501.34	INGOMAR	10,659.39	9,724.58	11,025.21	WINSTON	10.96	0	0
ASSN. TOTAL	134,870.40	130,660.40	102,329.00	FAIRVIEW	1,250.63	1,217.66	2,029.39	JERICHO	6,037.75	7,303.82	6,501.34	ASSN. TOTAL	135,571.50	142,218.80	120,986.80
PEARL RIVER				FBC BOONEVILLE	25,653.57	31,088.54	30,937.37	KEOWNVILLE	2,990.58	2,503.35	950.27	YALOBUSHA			
BETHEL	5,015.53	5,421.52	7,296.06	FIRST MT ZION			100.00	LIBERTY	650.00	975.00	300.00	BETHEL	5,302.00	5,806.00	5,076.00
CENTRAL	3,140.96	3,720.78	1,908.50	FOREST HILL	904.67	837.97	200.00	LOCUST GROVE	250.00	250.00	290.00	CALVARY	1,129.48	1,021.50	1,412.00
CORINTH	571.87	891.98	0	GASTON	8,113.33	9,754.52	11,902.24	MACEDONIA	8,050.63	8,553.00	6,965.91	CAMP GROUND	4,218.31	2,638.16	1,589.62
CRANE CREEK	2,227.51	4,622.69	1,716.78	HILL'S CHAPEL	289.43	212.55	106.27	MARTIN	3,623.74	3,383.96	3,346.07	CLEAR SPRINGS	185.00	135.00	300.00
DERBY	290.00	60.00	160.00	INGRAM	2,512.90	3,568.87	1,344.13	MOSS HILL	1,545.15	2,179.35	983.20	FBC COFFEYVILLE	21,545.27	20,373.64	12,662.09
FAITH MEMORIAL	559.70	588.29	779.75	FBC JUMPERTOWN	1,132.12	715.71	0	MYRTLE	4,278.84	4,081.49	42,840.12	DELAY ROAD		50.00	100.00
FBC NICHOLSON	1,391.00	1,500.00	1,277.00	MT OLIVE	8,614.11	9,186.09	14,539.82	NEELY MEMORIAL	2,000.91	2,180.32	683.05	ELAM	1,292.60	1,106.71	760.00
FBC CARRIAGE	1,034.69	455.78	986.43	NEW BURTON	118.60	358.89	210.00	NEW HARMONY	415.00	720.32	2,252.28	FRIENDSHIP	686.21	579.82	205.67
FBC PICAYUNE	62,686.32	55,874.29	88,469.43	OAK HILL	1,652.82	1,254.86	4,023.98	NEW OAK GROVE	450.00	600.00	434.79	FBC WATER VALLEY	17,250.00	17,250.00	46,346.07
FBC POPLARVILLE	26,631.66	29,111.46	24,402.48	OSBORNE CREEK	1,051.89	970.79	1,779.70	NORTHSHORE	1,126.99	1,260.66	831.28	HOPEWELL	35.00	344.13	512.14
FLAT-TOP UNITY	1,262.50	993.41	684.38	PINEY GROVE	282.80	333.13	748.83	OAK HILL	810.10	793.00	1,641.00	NEW HOPE	180.00	180.00	1,005.00
FORDS CREEK	1,339.21	1,420.26	1,073.11	PLEASANT GROVE	140.25	234.00	349.00	OLD OAK GROVE	635.16	721.10	1,155.16	O TUCKALOFA	2,893.74	2,738.31	1,564.22
GOODYEAR	10,723.35	8,164.89	5,847.62	E PLEASANT RIDGE	1,137.93	1,355.00	761.00	PLEASANT DALE	0	295.25	196.83	OAKLAND	1,308.55	2,214.54	4,351.25
GUM POND	1,256.37	1,611.02	1,052.53	THRASHER	933.82	989.47	4,489.50	PLEASANT HILL	5,540.06	5,386.58	7,914.78	PINE GROVE	900.00	750.00	1,950.00
HARMONY	2,174.00	2,043.18	2,237.25	TRINITY	31.12	93.18	289.76	POOLEVILLE	3,862.22	3,105.27	9,228.01	FAITH		0	596.06
HILLCREST ROAD	815.57	1,172.17	1,212.27	TUSCUMBIA	265.00	277.00	2,228.00	TEMPLE	3,890.00	3,856.00	2,632.50	SYLVIA RENA	4,891.38	4,723.33	5,037.83
JACKSON LANDING RD	426.65	573.93	0	WHEELER	2,745.20	2,541.04	2,923.21	WALLERVILLE	4,790.73	4,588.88	5,027.60	TILLATOBA	240.00	1,545.93	1,818.81
JUNIPER GROVE	6,022.30	6,557.84	5,968.48	ASSN. TOTAL	75,562.19	84,875.35	97,826.06	W. TALLAHATCHIE	1,558.65	1,442.94	1,649.55	WAYSIDE	1,934.92	2,272.02	3,514.01
NEW HENLEYFIELD	966.22	998.94	1,329.87	RANKIN				ZION HILL	1,345.40	992.69	2,777.70	ASSN. TOTAL	63,992.46	65,679.16	92,394.78
NEW GALENE	40.00	0	0	ANDREW CHAPEL	404.92	363.91	1,911.80	ASSN. TOTAL	157,431.90	167,293.70	211,289.30	YAZOO			
NEW PALESTINE	6,976.93	9,127.44	7,494.50	ANTIOCH	8,040.00	8,478.64	5,817.11	SMITH				ANDING	0	0	100.00
OAK HILL	2,156.34	2,144.96	2,141.02	BAREFOOT SPRINGS	2,364.78	2,468.39	3,119.29	FBC POLKVILLE	2,400.00	3,000.00	4,514.10	BENTON	3,741.09	5,028.23	2,806.00
OLIVE	4,154.00	3,638.00	3,346.00	BETHEL	3,711.15	4,335.12	4,896.60	BEAVER DAM	110.00	105.00	0	BENTONIA	2,510.06	2,781.84	1,139.69
FBC OZONA	1,433.90	987.94	817.47	FBC BRANDON	123,920.00	176,350.00	14,575.00	BURNS	1,356.41	1,278.86	514.70	BETHLEHEM	2,420.15	2,467.58	1,754.00
PARKVIEW	1,453.05	821.51	2,214.43	BRIAR HILL	39,313.00	43,901.00	15,554.65	CLEAR CREEK	433.02	435.93	0	BLACK JACK	4,724.00	4,725.00	2,515.50
PINE GROVE	11,785.00	12,000.00	8,278.50	CASTLEWOODS	7,465.59	9,155.09	4,305.85	CLEAR SPRINGS	61.10	414.38	1,524.00	CALVARY	4,021.44	4,179.74	2,373.00
ROLLING HILLS	1,641.09	2,446.60	2,429.14	CATO	11,456.09	12,007.25	7,851.15	CONCORD	855.19	709.61	560.00	CENTER RIDGE	8,906.96	7,668.90	3,913.13
ROSELAND PARK	24,738.00	25,861.00	12,190.00	CENTRAL			520.00	CORINTH	440.00	576.00	10.00	CENTRAL	2,226.00	1,742.00	600.02
SPRING HILL	1,065.10	1,278.30	2,305.66	CLEAR BRANCH	1,759.68	2,041.89	2,434.05	EASTSIDE			72.12	CONCORD	3,431.55	3,272.38	2,497.00
STEEP HOLLOW	8,606.44	6,905.44	4,867.27	CLEARLY	14,041.49	12,699.34	10,918.51	FELLOWSHIP	653.63	904.70	1,950.70	EDEN	1,569.78	1,557.27	576.50
UNITY	5,114.36	5,469.70	6,239.90	CONCORD	4,266.21	3,931.03	1,535.00	FBC MIZE	3,335.15	2,921.11	2,681.21	FBC YAZOO CITY	88,779.90	105,607.80	32,318.59
UNION	14,115.45	13,754.89	14,847.53	CROSSGATES	55,297.06	12,920.16	67,716.16	FBC RALEIGH	23,870.07	22,001.39	17,091.51	HEBRON	854.00	781.00	1,835.70
WEST POPLARVILLE	399.86	334.70	335.00	CROSS ROADS	4,715.54	3,396.57	4,769.07	GOODWATER	349.00	362.00	416.00	HOLLY BLUFF	2,577.25	2,053.58	906.15
WEST UNION	2,318.65	2,743.29	5,359.78	CROSSVIEW	1,896.36	2,612.02	3,225.80	LEAF RIVER	2,462.89	1,519.35	384.55	MELROSE	1,192.36	1,554.79	1,649.00
WHITE SAND</															

MC BSU kicks off with 'Late Night'

By Susan Autry

The student "studio" audience of Baptist Student Union (BSU) Late Night filled almost every seat of Swor Auditorium on Mississippi College's (MC) Clinton campus on Aug. 20. The crowd of more than 700 new and returning students applauded on cue as "Jeffrey Betterman," a.k.a. Jeff Powell, took the stage.

The excitement of the evening, which held an Olympic theme, was heightened as Gloria "Been-Stepped-On" and an amateur MC singing group known as "Patio Jive" added their talents to the show.

The fun-filled event came to a close as free snowcones were served outside in order to give students a chance to become acquainted with each other.

Jeff Powell, director of BSU, says, "One of our main priorities is to make BSU at MC a place where all students will feel welcome and accepted. Being a Christian and having fun are not mutually exclusive."

Elizabeth Carter, a sophomore, is a member of the

leadership team. When asked about the goal of BSU, she stated: "Our goal for the year is to reach every student on campus and meet them where their needs are. In planning BSU Late Night, it was our desire that we could show the students of MC that BSU is not only a place to worship and study the word of God but also a place to have fun."

According to freshman Lydia Lofton, this goal has been met. "Upon coming to MC, one thing I was nervous about was fitting in. The Late Night welcome party truly made us all feel welcome at BSU and at MC," she said.

The success of the welcome party was seen the following Tuesday at the first BSU gathering, as over half of Swor Auditorium was filled with enthusiastic students. The feelings of most students who have experienced BSU this year can be summed up in a statement made by Lofton: "There is no doubt about it - I want to be a part of BSU."

Autry is a student at MC.

Just for the Record



First Church, Holly Springs, recently hosted a woman's conference entitled, "Lord Change Me." Over 300 women attended from North Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Pictured (from left) are Jane Callicutt, Rose Fitch, Carole Jean Taylor, Sheran Gooch, conference organizers, and Debbie Montgomery, conference leader. Thad A. Moore is pastor.

Denton

Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), will present the annual William Carey Lectures on Oct. 7-8 on the Hattiesburg campus. The first lecture will be presented at the College's annual fall convocation on Oct. 7 in Smith Auditorium. The other William Carey Lecture will be in Thomas Business Building at 11 a.m. on Oct. 8. Lotz, who has served BWA since 1990, directs the work of the alliance in its various ministries to include evangelism, human rights, world aid, study, and research. Before going to BWA, Lotz was a missionary of the Board of International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA, to eastern and central Europe. For more information, contact Larry Kennedy at (601) 582-6115.



William Carey College's annual Parents' Day will be held Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Hattiesburg campus. Parents' Day registration and a faculty reception will be held in the Chain Garden at 10 a.m., followed by performances by the Carey Chorale, Symphonic Band, and the Department of Theater and Communication at 11 a.m.

A complimentary lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. For more information, contact Larry Kennedy, coordinator, at (601) 582-6115.

Calvary, West Point, will have dedication services on Sept. 29 for its new sanctuary and senior adult facility at 1 p.m. Worship services will be held at 10 a.m. A noon meal served in fellowship hall. James Richardson of Madison will be the guest speaker. Walter H. Frederick is pastor.

Springdale Church, West, will have a Commitment Day for its church expansion on Sept. 29 with an "Old Fashion Day." Activities include Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish meal; and a song and praise service following lunch. For more information, call Inez Dickerson at (601) 289-6592.

Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, will observe its 35th anniversary on Oct. 6 in the same location where it began as a mission. Originally sponsored by Pass Road Church, Gulfport, Bay Vista was formally organized as a church on Oct. 8, 1961, with 175 charter members. Guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service will be Randall Perry, former pastor, 1978-1981. Perry is now pastor of St. Andrew Church, Panama City, Fla. Dennis McIntire, Laurel, former minister of music at Bay Vista Church, will lead the music. A meal will be served at noon followed by a 1:30 p.m. anniversary program. Jerry N. Watts is pastor.

Names in the News

J. C. Renfro and the Antiques will be singing at Branch Church, Morton, Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. The Branch Quartet will also sing. James E. Watts, pastor.

Revival Dates

Handsboro, Gulfport: Sept. 29-Oct. 2; Sun-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist; Peggy McBride, Handsboro Church, music; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

Cascilla (North Central): Sept. 29-Oct. 4; 7 p.m.; Larry Atkins, Waynesville, Mo., evangelist; David Sapp, pastor.

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COPIAH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is taking resumes for a part time Director of Missions. If interested, send resume to: Copiah Baptist Association, P.O. Box 210, Hazlehurst, MS 39083. Deadline for receiving resumes is October 10, 1996.

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Just for the Record

First Church, Laurel, will sponsor a Christian Life Conference with Fisher Humphreys on Sept. 29-Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. Senior Seminary Humphreys (senior adults) will meet at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon on Mon.-Wed. Humphreys, professor of divinity at the Besson School of Divinity, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., is editor of "Nineteenth Century Evangelical Theology."

Mississippi College is offering review courses for the ACT Assessment. Classes offered in preparation for the Oct. 25 test date include: Test Mechanics, Sept. 28; Grammar, Oct. 5; Math, Oct. 12; and Science, Oct. 19. Classes offered in preparation for the Dec. 14 test date include: Test Mechanics, Nov. 16; Grammar, Nov. 23; Math, Dec. 7; and Science, Dec. 7. For more information, call Shaun Hand at (601) 925-3264.

The Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education is offering a variety of courses that will be of interest to adults and are offered as evening classes. The following is a partial list of courses available: WordPerfect 6.1 is a computer course designed to teach the fundamentals of WordPerfect 6.1 as well

as advanced techniques. Class will meet on Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, and 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Speaking with your Hands, a class that teaches the basis American Sign Language skills through exercises in finger spelling and vocabulary, will meet on Oct. 7, 14, 28, and Nov. 4, from 6-8 p.m. Basic Painting Course, a class for beginning and advanced painters, will meet on Oct. 8, 10, 17, and 24, from 6-9 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 925-3301.

"Beginning Again," a divorce recovery workshop, will be hosted by First Church, Jackson, for seven consecutive Thursday evenings, 7-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 3. The workshop will feature helpful teachings and discussions on subjects related to divorce. Additionally, there will be "Kidshare," a support group for children in grades one through six, and "Healing the Wounds," a support group for teenagers. These programs are available to everyone regardless of religious affiliation. Advance registration and additional information is available by calling the Single Adult Ministry at (601) 949-1906. The registration fee is \$20 which includes materials.

Olivet Church, Gulfport, will have its 5th Sunday sing on Sept. 29. A covered dish meal will follow the 11 a.m. worship service. A gospel singing will be held at 1 p.m. Richard E. Colwell is pastor.

Staff Changes

First Church, Newton, has called David G. Webb as minister of education and outreach, effective Aug. 12. A native of Forest, he received his education at Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was Union Church, Picayune. Frank Harmon is pastor.

Damascus Church, Hazlehurst, has called David Patterson as pastor, effective Sept. 8. A native of Copiah County, Patterson has served as interim pastor of Damascus for six months.

Ingram Church, Baldwin, has called Marty Anderson as minister of youth, effective Sept. 1. A native of Saltillo, he received his education at Mississippi State University. Clayton Littlejohn is pastor.

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MBC meetings deadline posted

"The Baptist Record" annually provides readers with a list of activities related to the meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, which will be held this year on Oct. 29-30 at First Church, Jackson. The deadline for these activities to be included is the close of business on Thursday, Oct. 3. Include name and type of activity; date and time; program speakers; location; cost of attending (where applicable); and

cost of meals (where applicable). Mail the information to arrive by Oct. 3 to "The Baptist Record," Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Information may be faxed to the attention of "The Baptist Record" at (601) 968-3928 or e-mailed to Compuserve address 70420.37. To avoid mistakes, information will not be accepted over the telephone.

SBC Exec. Comm. declines motions

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — In a relatively quiet — and quick — meeting, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee granted \$150,000 to a Baptist schools association and declined to act on a number of referred motions from the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

The Sept. 16-18 regular meeting of the Executive Committee concluded Tuesday at mid-afternoon following a one-hour plenary session where there was no debate and all votes on recommendations were apparently unanimous.

A shortened meeting appeared likely when the schedule eliminated a budget request presentation by the 19 SBC agencies, a regular part of the September meeting.

Officials decided to do all of the budget preparation for the 1997-98 SBC year at the February meeting because of the denominational restructuring.

The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools (ASBCS) will receive \$150,000 over two years in a request from the Education Commission, which will dissolve Dec. 31, 1996. Commissioners asked the Executive Committee to grant the funds from the commission's budget to help ASBCS get started. ASBCS will assume some of the functions of the Education Commission following its closure.

The Executive Committee took action, by declining to act in most instances, on 16 motions referred from the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

Revival Dates

Southside, Yazoo City: Sept. 29; one day homecoming revival; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m.; singspiration, 1 p.m.; and worship, 1:30 p.m.; Cliff Shipp, former pastor, guest speaker; The Everett Family, music for morning worship; Central Church Ladies' Trio will provide music for afternoon service.

Calvary of Oak Grove, Hattiesburg: Sept. 29-Oct. 2; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Argile Smith, evangelist; Joey Wyatt, music; John Voss, pastor.

East Mt. Zion, Baldwin: Sept. 29-Oct. 4; 7 p.m. nightly; Kenny Digby, Fulton, evangelist; Joe

Blossingome, Baldwin, music; Gerald Cagle, pastor.

First, Flora: Oct. 6-9; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Vinson, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Tim Moak, Jackson, music; Rickey Blythe, pastor.

Calvary, West Point: Oct. 6-9; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 9-12

noon and 7 p.m.; Hardy Denham, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Steve Reynolds, Columbus, music; Walter H. Frederick, pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Sept. 29-Oct. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Thomas Wicker, Sallis, evangelist; Doug Upchurch, Vicksburg, music; Robby Britt, pastor.

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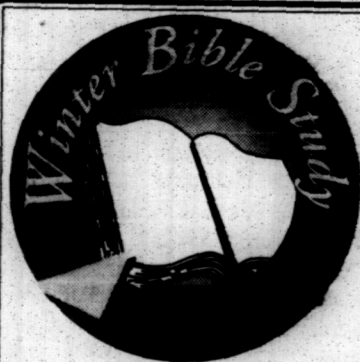
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DATE

*Monday, September 30

**Tuesday, October 1

**Wednesday, October 2

**Thursday, October 3

*Led by Dr. David Dockery, president of Union University, Jackson, Tennessee

**Led by Dr. Wayne VanHorn, pastor, First Baptist Church, Columbia

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

COST: None

LUNCH: Complimentary of respective host school and MBCB Sunday School Department.

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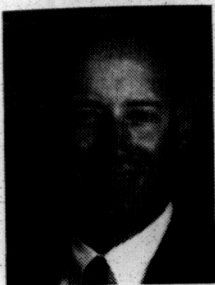
David Dockery



Wayne VanHorn

Uniform

Continuing to trust



By Jim Phillips

A jet airliner falls from the sky off New York's Long Island killing all on board. A bomb goes off at Atlanta's Centennial Park sending people bleeding and dying to the hospital. A mother comes home to discover that her son has been brutally murdered while he slept on the couch. Cancer strikes a child as she is approaching the thrilling years of grade school. A young woman excited about her pregnancy, loses the child near the end of her first trimester dashing the couples hopes of their first child. So, where is God? Something kin to this might be the modern equivalent of the situation facing the prophet Habakkuk in our lesson under study. When it appears to the human eye that God has removed his loving grace, what's a person to do? When we cry out for understanding and God seems silent, do we become silent for fear that God has withdrawn from our situation?

When I look back over my life, God seems to have taught me more through difficulty than through ease. Something deep in the soul is moved when we seem left to fend for ourselves instead of God coming to the rescue. On cloudy days when the sun is hidden from our view, faith tells us that the sun is still up beyond the clouds and will appear again.

Habakkuk voiced a complaint. How would God allow for a pagan nation to be used to crush his own people (1:6)? To his limited understanding and vision, what God was doing seemed incompatible with divine purpose and sovereignty. With things the way they were, life for his people didn't seem to make sense.

And so he complained (2:1). But note that along with the question came God's quick response (vv. 2-4). Christians today need to be reminded that God doesn't grow silent just because we feel as though he has withdrawn. This is precisely the time when our Bibles must be meditated upon so God can lead us to an explanation of what he is doing in our life. Again, I've learned more when I have approached the Word of God seeking specifics than when approaching it devotionally. Henry Blackaby has reminded many of us that God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit by way of prayer, circumstances, the church, and others but always confirms it by his Word. The point then comes in the life of a believer when, by faith, we have to live on in the midst of it all (v. 4). It doesn't mean that everything will immediately get better, it might get worse still. But that is precisely when we have to believe that God knows what he is doing whether it looks like it or not.

Habakkuk came to understand that God moves in ways that will bring about his perfect will (3:1-2). The destruction coming upon Judah was a result of their own behavior. God had every right to judge his people's sin. Habakkuk just thought he could go about it differently and come away with the same results.

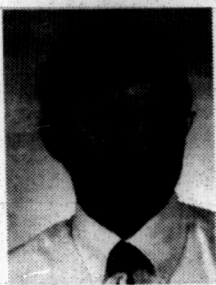
What he did learn was that people can always approach God with their praise or their complaint and he always hears and responds (3:18). The time may come however when God will reserve the right to withhold complete understanding, as he is always Sovereign and Lord. It is at that point precisely when our faith must be enough to carry us through. Perhaps a vision of the cross at just such a point, will reinforce our heart that regardless of what happens, God's love shown forth on Calvary is unquestionable.

Is it difficult to trust God right now? Has your faith been shaken and your heart challenged? Rest assured that you're not the first one or the last who has been placed in such a situation. Being related to God by faith in his Son doesn't guarantee life without difficulty. The righteous live by faith and trust in God even when it doesn't make sense, at least to us. Pray right now for clarity of understanding. Seek God's often quiet, unassuming voice as you open his Word and seek his counsel. Ask for the outcome of his purpose in the midst of your struggle. Seek to live above the fray you may be facing and request that the Holy Spirit bring you rest and assurance right now. Live by faith and keep trusting. Jesus never fails!

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book

The new Jerusalem



By Ronald Bishop

The new city (21:1-27). After the final defeat of the Devil, John saw the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. The announcement is made that God now dwells with his people and they have no reason to be afraid or sad. No longer will they be in pain or fear death. All the negative things concerning the first heaven and earth have passed away. The reason for the absence of bad things is that God has made everything new. God (or Jesus) told John that he could record this vision, for it was trustworthy and true. But Jesus made it clear to John that no one could enter this city except "he who conquers." The cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, and others would be excluded and thrown into the lake of fire.

One of the angels who had had the seven bowls of God's wrath offered to show John the Bride, the wife of the Lamb. John was carried away in the spirit to a high mountain where he viewed the city. The city is described in fantastic details that indicate that God spared no expense in preparing this wonderful place for his people. Its radiance was like a rare jewel. A great, high wall symbolizes protection. Twelve gates indicate free access to those who live there. The twelve gates also are named for the twelve tribes of Israel. The city is built for stability on twelve foundations, each indicating one of the apostles.

The measuring of the city indicates that it is perfect in every way. The city was pure gold and was adorned with all types of jewels. The twelve gates were each made of a single pearl, and the street was pure gold, transparent as glass.

John also indicated that there was no need for a special place of worship in the city, for God himself and Jesus were the temple. The city also did not have to depend upon the sun and moon for light, since the glory of God is its light. Never again will God's people be concerned with being shut out of their city, for the gates never close, and it never gets dark there.

John also reminded the Christians that nothing unclean would enter there. No one practicing abomination or falsehood would be present. Only those whose names were written in the Lamb's book of life could enter the great city. In order to live there, God's people had to be faithful to God and resist the temptation to deny their faith.

The river and the tree of life (22:1-21). John then saw a river that ran from the throne of God through the city. The river was lined with trees of life whose leaves were for the healing of the nations. The trees also provided fruit, perhaps for food. Nothing accursed will be there. Only God's servants who worship him—no one who worships Caesar—would be present. John is reminded that these things are true and that he has permission to record them. Jesus reminds John that he is coming soon three times (vv. 7, 12, 20).

John then gives his personal authentication to the visions of Revelation (v. 8). Once again John makes the mistake of falling down to worship an angel and is corrected. John is told in v. 10 not to seal up the words of this book, for the time is near. He reminds the Christians that only they who are faithful have a right to the tree of life.

As with other apocalyptic writing, Revelation includes a warning to those who would tamper with the book. Anyone wishing to add to the book can expect to have the plagues recorded in the book added to him. Anyone taking away from the book could expect to have his share of the rewards described in the book taken away. The book concludes with another reminder that Jesus is coming soon. Christians then and now need to be ready for the eventual and abrupt arrival. Then and now, the key to being prepared is **BE FAITHFUL**.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work

Enduring hardships



By Cynthia Douglas

How can I endure in my faith when hardships arise? Does having faith in God mean health, wealth and blessings? No, hardships will come to believers and we need to be prepared to endure the storms of life. For example, two Christian families live side by side. One family enjoys good health. In the other family the seven year old son is dealing with cancer. Is God still God? Yes, he is the One who gives the strength to endure and to overcome.

Focus on Jesus' example (Heb. 12:1-3). Chapter 11 gave examples of people who had great faith and endured many dangerous, painful situations. Now the writer of Hebrews says in 12:1, because of their powerful testimony, let us also strive to run the race of life in such a way which honors God.

Christians are to focus on Jesus because He is the ultimate example of faith. Christ endured the agony of the cross, should not we too be willing to endure?

Learn from discipline (Heb. 12:7a, 10-11). Because God loves us, he disciplines us. Not every hardship we endure is God's discipline. Some heartaches come as a result of human evil. God uses circumstances to discipline his children, to mold them for life and for eternity. God disciplines believers because of his great, personal love for each individual. His discipline has a purpose "that we may share in his holiness" (v. 10). Discipline is never pleasant, but it produces a great profit in righteousness to those who are molded by it. Believers develop endurance as they learn from God's discipline in their lives.

Pay the price (Heb. 13:12-14). Verses 12-14 are the high point of the message of Hebrews. First, the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus was an absolute necessity for our salvation. Second, believers are to deny themselves, take up the cross and follow Jesus even if it means death.

Christians can expect to suffer abuse, rejection even physical suffering in this world. Believers are to separate themselves from the entanglements of sin. However, being separate does not mean separation from the unbelievers, because they are the mission field. Separation can be costly. "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Tim. 3:12).

Offer pleasing sacrifices (13:15-16). The Jews understood about sacrifices in the Old Testament times. Believers in New Testament times knew Christ offered up the one and only sacrifice for sin. So what pleasing sacrifices are we to offer up to God? Verses 15 and 16 give the two sacrifices: the offering up continually of praise to God and doing good works in his name. Do your speech and inner thoughts reflect a lifestyle of thanks and praise? Remember, God is not pleased if our praise is not accompanied by good works. When we praise him and serve others, God is pleased.

In difficult times many adults waver or have difficulty in maintaining their commitments. God wants his followers to focus on the example of Jesus, learn from his discipline, identify with Christ even when it is costly and to offer pleasing sacrifices of praise and good works in his name. Jesus, being completely human, faced great hardships. He loves us, sympathizes with us, and enables us — what a mighty God we serve!

This study concludes a five session study in Hebrews. Sessions focused on Jesus as the true foundation of faith, how to demonstrate a confident faith, maturing spiritually, living by faith, and enduring hardships. Many people are named in Hebrews as people of faith. Are you a person of faith?

The only way to become a person of faith is to trust Jesus to be your Savior. All of us owe a sin debt that we cannot pay. Only Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, the atonement for our sin. He has provided the only way for us to have fellowship with God and to be counted as one of God's children.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

capsules

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE NAMES ROGERS FOR CLERGY-MAN HONOR: ST. LOUIS (BP)—Adrian Rogers will be among the honorees at Religious Heritage of America's 46th annual national awards program Oct. 14 in Memphis, Tenn. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., will be honored as "Clergyman of the Year" by Religious Heritage, a St. Louis-based interfaith organization seeking, according to its mission statement, "to help America reclaim the religious values upon which it was founded by demonstrating how these values add to the quality of life." Its national awards program seeks to recognize positive role models of people guided by religious values in their daily lives.

SBC SEMINARY TORMENTED BY HURRICANE FRAN: WILMINGTON, N.C. (BP)—Hurricane Fran resulted in a preliminary estimate of \$1 million in damage at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., including removal and cleanup of trees; repair and cleanup of roof damage; broken windows; and flooding. Additionally, students lost cars, while faculty and administration homes were damaged by wind, rain, and fallen trees, reported Greg Kingry, Southeastern's director of public relations.

G-RATED MOVIES AT BOX OFFICE MORE PROFITABLE THAN R-RATED: FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—While broad-audience movies propelled the year-end box office in 1995, R-rated movies dragged down the total gross. In Ted Baehr's "Report to the Entertainment Industry," he said throughout 1995 Hollywood seemed shocked that some of its prized, big-budget movies flopped at the box office while the average gross receipts of G-rated movies were 250% more than those of R-rated movies. Gross receipts of PG-rated movies were 168% more than R-rated films, and PG-13 rated movies were 213% more than those with an R-rating. "The stars are not the cause of the failure of these films, but rather the change in the attitudes of the American people who no longer want to be fed an entertainment diet of perverse sex, porno-violence, and revisionist history," he said.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

The recent death of my daughter after a long, painful illness has caused me to doubt my faith. God has been no comfort to me. How can I find my way back?

God has not left you, but your hurt is so great that you are focusing on it instead of God. Statistics show that at least 18-24 months are needed to cope with a difficult death before a grieving loved one can again see hope. Begin keeping a diary that will track your emotions and help you understand in written form what you are feeling inside. After a few weeks, you will be able to review the diary to see how far you have come, and that will help you plan where you want to go. Stay around close friends, but realize they may not always know what to say or do. Enjoy their willingness to help you, and overlook their mistakes. Locate a support group where you can share your story and observe others who are ahead of you in this process. Start an exercise program, which serves as an excellent outlet while you deal with your grief. Finally, keep God's Word close at hand, stay in church, and pray. When

your mind is less cluttered, you will be better able to hear God's still, small voice.

My first-grader is using bad words he hears in school. How can I nip this before it becomes a habit?

Your first-grader is learning to express himself, and somehow he has come to understand that using bad words will gain attention for him. Rather than overreacting or shaming your son, respond with, "Let's say that another way." You can encourage correct behavior by allowing him to see that he has a choice in using more appropriate words. Find out where your son is picking up this bad language. If it comes from television, for example, switch the channel and say, "We don't let that type of talk come into our home." The same is true if one of your son's friends is causing the problem — tell him, "We don't talk that way in our home." Your son will see that he can take a stand for what's right, and you will strike an early blow against the peer pressure he will inevitably feel as he gets older.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

AIDS shatters 'comfort zone' of Texas missionary parents

ABILENE, Texas (BP) — One phone call blasted Fred and Marylou Levrets from their imagined "comfort zone" of immunity.

"Scott has AIDS," said their daughter Susan Walker, a nurse in Abilene, Texas.

Now, Scott, their youngest child and a family prodigal, wanted to come home to die.

The Levretses — tested by the gritty tribulations of 30 years as Southern Baptist missionaries in west Africa — faced a new test.

Could they accept that the dread disease sweeping the world had invaded their lives — that it wasn't "something that just happened to others?"

Could they overcome their devastation, shame, denial and anger so that they could accept, love and forgive their son?

Could they summon the courage that had brought them through the dangers of political coups, contact with lepers and travel over perilous terrain?

Could they even talk about their shame to others — especially missionaries where Scott grew up as an MK (missionary kid)?

In their grief, they cried out to God asking why this had happened to their family.

Other questions plagued them. "What will your mission family think of you? What will church members back home think? What will others think when they hear Scott has AIDS — and has come home to you?"

Fred resolved to keep it quiet — to hold it as a painful, devastating secret. "But the burden became too great to bear alone," Fred said.



Marylou and Fred Levrets

Finally, the Levretses poured out their grief to all their fellow missionaries and to family members and church friends in Abilene, where they moved to give Scott a final home.

That decision changed lives — theirs, Scott's and others'.

God's love, flowing through others, conquered their darkest despair. It lifted them into another "comfort zone" — the one that passes understanding.

Missionaries, family, and church members embraced them, wept with them, comforted them, helped them.

"They loved us back to faith again," says Fred.

And so it went with Scott. A miracle changed his life.

Silence, anger, and denial would not have allowed that miracle to happen.

Openness, love, acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation did so — in the lives of Scott and those who love him.

The Levretses will now minister to AIDS victims and families. (They may be contacted at 3710 Santa Monica Drive, Abilene, Texas 79605, or at 915-690-6401.)

"This disease will touch everyone before it's eradicated," Marylou says. She and Fred know some people will resist.

"We must be patient with those who can't accept this kind of tragedy," says Fred, noting a member of his own family has had trouble doing so.

"Since my son died of AIDS," Marylou adds, "I've prayed, 'Lord don't let me waste my sorrows, because so many other people out there are hurting.'"

Texas board targets comments questioning Clinton's salvation

DALLAS (BP) — The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board (BGCT) adopted a resolution Sept. 10 asking BGCT entities to instruct invited guest speakers to refrain from promoting or defaming any political candidate or party, questioning a political figure's salvation or "engaging in partisan politics which hinders the ability of the BGCT to reach people for Christ."

The resolution, which passed by a substantial margin after about 30 minutes of discussion, was presented during miscellaneous business by Phil Lineberger, a former BGCT president and pastor of Williams Trace Church, Sugarland, Texas.

In introducing his resolution, Lineberger said it addressed statements at a Labor Day weekend spiritual awakening retreat sponsored by Texas Baptist Men made by Richard Owen Roberts of Wheaton, Ill., who said he believed President Bill Clinton "is not a Christian."

Earlier in the board meeting, Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men (TBM), told the board the retreat was never intended to be political in nature and TBM always had attempted to avoid any kind of partisan politics.

Roberts, at the retreat, was quoted as saying, "God has put in the White House a man who looks

just like evangelical Christianity — one who thinks he is something that he is not."

Roberts, president of International Awakening Ministries, continued, "Unless I am completely out of step with God, the dear man is not a Christian."

Clinton has been "defrauded by false doctrine" permeating churches today, Roberts said.

Bibliocipher

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AEBLLBZ XL JYB RPQ JYPJ KPEGBJY QFJ XQ JYB
WFIQLBE FC JYB IQHFZES, QFM LJPQZBJY XQ JYB KPS
FC LXQQBML, QFM LXJJBjY XQ JYB LBPJ FC JYB
LWFMQIE. DLPERL FQB: FQB

Clue: W equals C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last weeks puzzle: Romans Ten Four.

Baptist Record

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